

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00072 101709Z

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-20 SCEM-02

TRSE-00 INT-08 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SPC-03

DRC-01 /124 W

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R 101630Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4253

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN IC

SUBJECT: PANAM REQUEST FOR JET FUEL IN ICELAND

REF: STATE 248152, DEC 21, 1973

1. SUMMARY. PANAMERICAN SEEKING, SO FAR UNSUCCESSFULLY, TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT FUEL LOCALLY FOR DAILY 747 LONDON-(LOS ANGELES POLAR FLIGHT. PANAM REP SAYS LARGE QUANTITIES ARE BEING HELD HERE IN RESERVE FOR LOFTLEIDIR, BUT THAT PAA ABLE TO OBTAIN ONLY 150,000 GALLONS MONTHLY. BEFORE RAISING QUESTION WITH GOI WE WOULD APPRECIATE INTERPRETATION OF WHAT "RECIPROCAL ACTION" (REFTEL) CALLS FOR IN THIS SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. PANAM IN DECEMBER REQUESTED FROM LOCAL ESSO DISTRIBUTOR 500,000 GALLONS JET FUEL MONTHLY FOR DAILY LONDON-LOS ANGELES FLIGHT #121 AND WAS AUTHORIZED 200,000 GALLONS FOR DECEMBER. THIS HAS NOW BEEN CUT TO 150,000 GALLONS FOR JANUARY AND OUTLOOK IS THAT PAA WILL BE GIVEN THIS AMOUNT MONTHLY THROUGH APRIL. BECAUSE PAA HAS DISCONTINUED REGULAR SERVICE TO ICELAND AT LEAST UNTIL MAY, AND SINCE EVEN 150,000 GALLONS IS CONSIDERABLY MORE FUEL THAN PAA HAS EVER OBTAINED HERE, QUESTION ARISES AS TO WHETHER RECIPROCITY MEANS PAA IS ENTITLED ONLY TO LEVELS IT ONCE
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00072 101709Z

RECEIVED, OR EVEN THAT, GIVEN TEMPORARY DISCONTINUATION OF SERVICE,

OR TO AMOUNTS NOW BEING GIVEN LOFTLEIDIR IN US.

3. ACCORDING TO PANAM REP, LOCAL BRITISH PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTOR, WHO HAS LOFTLEIDIR CONTRACT, HAS ON HAND, OR WILL SHORTLY, AS MUCH AS YEAR'S SUPPLY OF FUEL WHICH IT IS HOLDING FOR LOFTLEIDIR. PAA NOTIFIED ITS HOME OFFICE IN DECEMBER THAT THERE WERE 17.8 MILLION GALLONS OF JET FUEL IN ICELAND OF WHICH IS SUPPLIER, ESSO, REPORTEDLY HAD 2 MILLION. BP HAS REFUSED PAA REQUEST FOR SUPPLIES.

4. PAA POINTS OUT THAT SOVIET AIRCRAFT EN ROUTE TO CUBA HAVE RECENTLY BEEN GIVEN 200,000 GALLONS FROM ESSO AND UNDETERMINED AMOUNT FROM SHELL, AND THAT LOFTLEIDIR AFFILIATE, AIR BAHAMAS, WHICH HAS NEVER SERVICED ICELAND, WAS HERE THREE OR FOUR TIMES WEEKLY IN DECEMBER BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT FUEL AT SHANNON. ESSO IS ALSO PROVIDING FUEL TO LUFTHANSA ON IRREGULAR AND LIMITED BASIS.

5. PANAM REP GUESSED THAT LOFTLEIDIR, WITH DAILY FLIGHTS TO NEW YORK AND TWICE WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO CHICAGO WAS RECEIVING FAR MORE FUEL IN US THAN THE 500,000 GALLONS PANAM SEEKS HERE. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT GUIDANCE FOR APPROACH TO GOI. IRVING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, JET FUEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974REYKJA00072
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740150/aaaabvni.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 248152, DEC 21, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PANAM REQUEST FOR JET FUEL IN ICELAND
TAGS: ETRN, IC, PANAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005